

## What is the Stormwater Division?

The Stormwater Division is a legal entity which provides planning, maintenance, capital improvements, regulation and administrative functions for the stormwater collection system. The Stormwater Division (like other City Utilities) must provide a method of generating revenues for these necessary activities through user fees. Portage established the Stormwater Division in 2014, The City is now studying options and is proposing to establish revised policies and rates in 2017.

## What are stormwater user fees?

Stormwater user fees are to be billed and collected on a monthly basis from each property. Equivalent Residential Units (ERUs) are a common method to assess fees. An ERU is equal to the average amount of residential impervious surface area. The user fee per ERU is determined according to the cost of the annual stormwater management needs.

## How may the revenue be used by the Stormwater Utility?

1. Revenue from stormwater user fees may be used to fund stormwater management projects.
2. Storm sewer maintenance, cleaning and repair may be funded to improve drainage throughout the City.
3. Requirements for the NPDES Phase II Stormwater Permit Program (also known as the MS4 Program) may be funded.

For more information regarding the Portage Utility Service Stormwater Division, please contact the Portage Utility Service Field Forces at 219-763-2986

Portage Utility Service-Field Forces  
2301 Hamstrom Road  
Portage, IN 46368



**Stormwater Utility  
Public Education Information  
Portage Utilities  
Portage, Indiana**

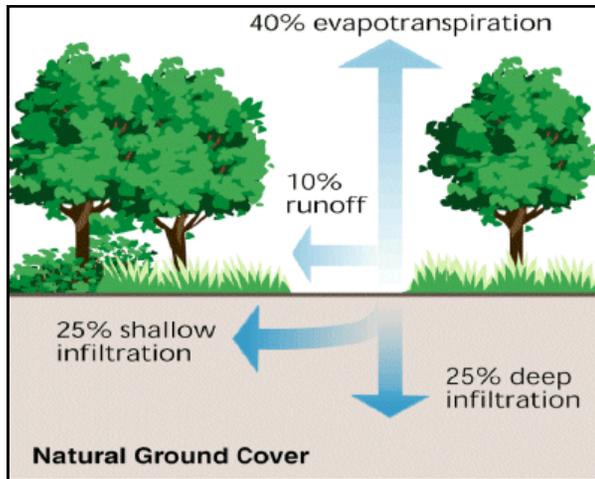
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# Portage Utility Service Stormwater Division

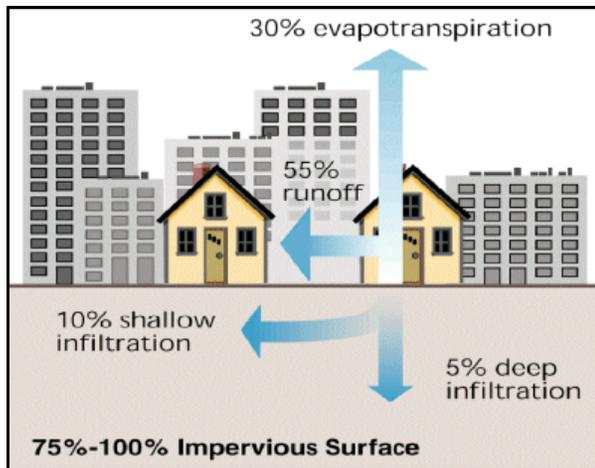


An authorized handout for the  
City of  
Portage, Indiana

## How Do Impervious Surfaces Affect Stormwater?



In areas of natural ground cover, stormwater is able to evaporate to the air and infiltrate to the ground. This results in less runoff and less stormwater pollution.



As the amount of impervious surface increases, the rate of stormwater runoff is increased resulting in more stormwater runoff and pollution.

### What is an impervious surface?

Impervious surfaces are hard surfaces which prevent or limit the natural entry of stormwater into the soil. Impervious surfaces include all hard surfaces such as rooftops, driveways, parking lots, patios, and other surfaces that impede infiltration into the ground (concrete, asphalt and compacted gravel surfaces are included). Impervious surfaces increase stormwater runoff and may contribute to stormwater pollution.

### What is stormwater runoff?

Since stormwater cannot be absorbed by impervious surfaces, the stormwater runs over the surface as stormwater runoff. Stormwater runoff must be managed through a stormwater collection system (pipes, culverts, ditches, swales, inlets, curb and gutter, detention ponds, etc.) to prevent standing water and flooding.

### How is stormwater affected by increased runoff?

With increased amounts of impervious surface, more runoff is produced and it travels at higher speeds. This runoff picks up and carries pollutants to the stormwater collection system and eventually to receiving waters (lakes, ponds, rivers and streams). Large volumes of quickly flowing runoff will also erode soil, damage plants, and cause waters to become clouded and murky with sediments.

### How is stormwater affected by increased pollutants?

Within urbanized areas, impervious surfaces tend to collect a variety of pollutants including cleaning products; paint; oil, grease, and toxic chemicals from automobiles; road salts; pesticides and fertilizers from lawn maintenance and gardening; pet waste; litter; and eroded sediments. Increased amount of pollutants can harm fish and wildlife, kill native plants, contaminate drinking water supplies, and make recreational areas unsafe.

### Federal and State regulations require the City of Portage to reduce pollutants during storm events.

The City of Portage is mandated under the Federal NPDES Phase II Stormwater Program to obtain an NPDES stormwater permit (commonly called The MS4 Program). This permit program requires the City to reduce pollutants carried by the municipal storm sewer system. In order for the City to comply with this Federal mandate, continue to implement this program and provide storm sewer services, stormwater user fees collected by the City will be used for this program.